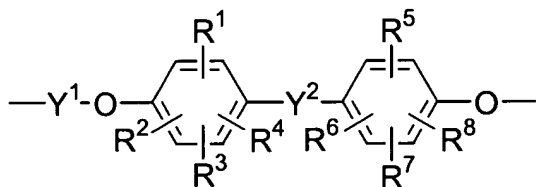


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A polyether copolymer comprising (A) an aromatic polyether block and (B) an aliphatic polyether block, wherein (B) the aliphatic polyether block is on a side chain of (A) the aromatic polyether block.

2. (Canceled)

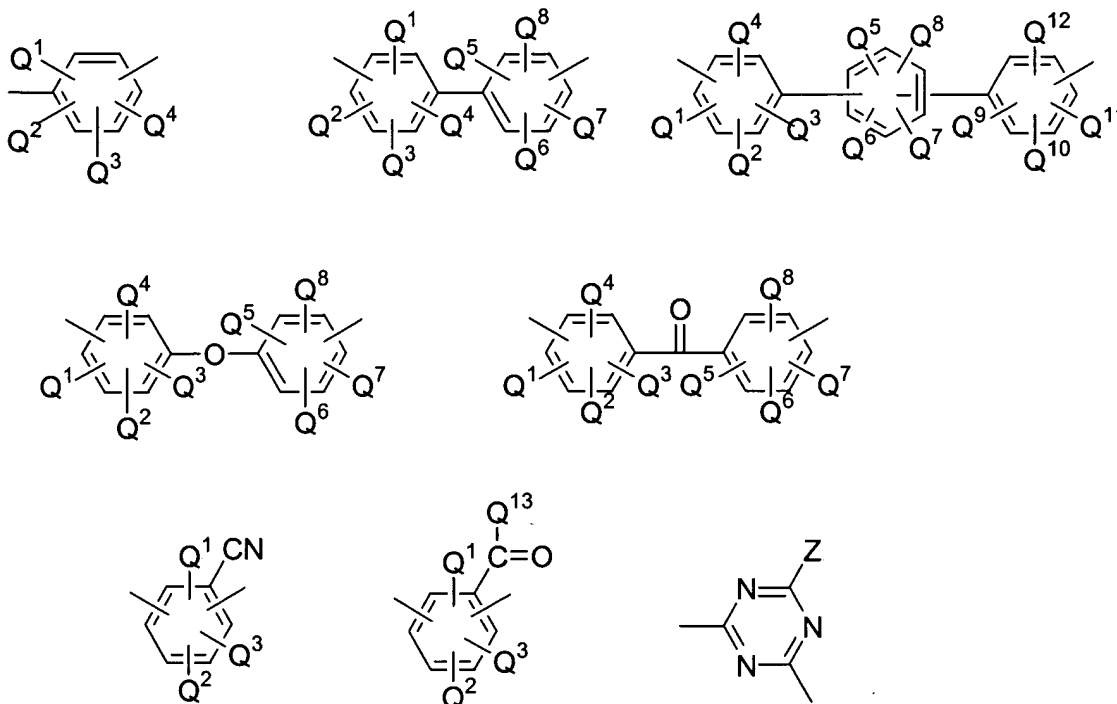
3. (Original) The polyether copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic polyether block (A) has a structural unit represented by the following formula (1):



(1)

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a chlorine atom, an iodine atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkynyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having 4 to 10 carbon atoms, a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, a phenyl group which may be substituted and a functional group

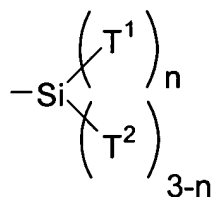
represented by the formula (2) or (3) described below;  $Y^1$  is selected from any one of functional groups described below or two or more of the functional groups;



$Y^2$  is selected from any one of a single bond, a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an ether group, a ketone group and a sulfone group or two or more of them; at least one of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  or  $Q^1$ ,  $Q^2$ ,  $Q^3$ ,  $Q^4$ ,  $Q^5$ ,  $Q^6$ ,  $Q^7$ ,  $Q^8$ ,  $Q^9$ ,  $Q^{10}$ ,  $Q^{11}$ ,  $Q^{12}$  and  $Q^{13}$  in at least one unit structure contained in a molecular chain is selected from functional groups represented by the formula (3);

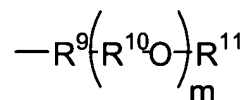
wherein  $Q^1$ ,  $Q^2$ ,  $Q^3$ ,  $Q^4$ ,  $Q^5$ ,  $Q^6$ ,  $Q^7$ ,  $Q^8$ ,  $Q^9$ ,  $Q^{10}$ ,  $Q^{11}$  and  $Q^{12}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl

group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkynyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms and a functional group represented by the formula (2) or (3) described below;  $Q^{13}$  is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkynyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms and a functional group represented by the formula (2) or (3) described below; Z is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, an iodine atom, a group  $-OZ^1$  and a group  $-NZ^2Z^3$ ; and  $Z^1$ ,  $Z^2$  and  $Z^3$  are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group and an ether bond-containing group;



(2)

wherein  $T^1$  is selected from an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms;  $T^2$  is selected from an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms and an aryl group; n represents an integer of 1 to 3 inclusive; plural  $T^1$ 's may be different from each other and plural  $T^2$ 's may also be different from each other;



(3)

wherein  $R^9$  is selected from a single bond and a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms;  $R^{10}$  is selected from a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms;  $R^{11}$  is selected from a hydrogen atom and a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms; and  $m$  is selected from an integer of 1 or more.

4. (Original) The polyether copolymer according to claim 3, wherein  $R^{10}$  is  $-CH_2-CH_2-$ ,  $-CH_2-CH(CH_3)-$  or  $-CH(CH_3)-CH_2-$ .

5. (Original) The polyether copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the relation between the thermal decomposition starting temperature  $T_a$  ( $^{\circ}C$ ) of the aromatic polyether block (A) and the thermal decomposition starting temperature  $T_b$  ( $^{\circ}C$ ) of the aliphatic polyether block (B) is represented by the formula:  $T_a \geq (T_b + 40)$ .

6-16. (Canceled)